

Listing of the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) An interface apparatus for interfacing a telephony appliance to a telephone switching system, the interface apparatus comprising:

- a. a signal path through the apparatus for communicating signals between the telephony appliance and the telephone switching system;
- b. means for identifying a first communication protocol utilized by the telephony appliance from among a plurality of communication protocols and for configuring the signal path according to the first communication protocol, wherein configuring the signal path includes dynamically programming a **first** control circuit within the signal path according to the identified first communication protocol; and
- c. means for identifying a second communication protocol utilized by the telephone switching system from among the plurality of communication protocols and for configuring the signal path according to the second communication protocol, wherein configuring the signal path according to the second communication protocol includes programming the control circuit according to conversion parameters associated with the identified second communication protocol, further wherein the first communication protocol and the second communication protocol must first be identified before the telephony appliance and the telephone switching system begin communicating with one another.

8. (Original) The interface device according to claim 7 wherein the signal path includes a converter for converting the digital samples into an analog signal.

1 9. (Original) The interface device according to claim 7 wherein the signal path is utilized
2 for communicating voice and control signals between the telephony appliance and the telephone
3 switching system.

1 10. (Original) The interface device according to claim 9 comprising a circuit for detecting an
2 on-hook/off-hook condition of the telephony appliance and for providing a notification to the
3 telephone switching system in response to a change in the on-hook/off-hook condition of the
4 telephony appliance.

1 11. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing a telephony appliance to a telephone
2 switching system, the method comprising steps of:

- 3 a. providing a signal path for communicating signals between the telephony
4 appliance and the telephone switching system;
- 5 b. identifying a first communication protocol utilized by the telephony appliance
6 from among a plurality of communication protocols;
- 7 c. identifying a second communication protocol utilized by the telephone switching
8 system from among the plurality of communication protocols, wherein the first
9 communication protocol and the second communication protocol must first be
10 identified before the telephony appliance and the telephone switching system
11 begin communicating with one another; and
- 12 d. configuring the signal path according to the protocol utilized by the telephony
13 appliance and according to the protocol utilized by the telephone switching
14 system, wherein configuring the signal path includes dynamically programming a
15 first control circuit within the signal path according to the identified first
16 communication protocol and according to conversion parameters associated with
17 the identified second communication protocol.

1 12. (Original) The method according to claim 11 wherein the signal path includes a
2 converter for converting digital voice samples into an analog signal.

1 13. (Original) The method according to claim 11 wherein the signal path is utilized for
2 communicating voice and control signals between the telephony appliance and the telephone
3 switching system.

1 14. (Original) The method according to claim 13 further comprising a step of detecting an
2 on-hook/off-hook condition of the telephony appliance.

1 15. (Original) The method according to claim 14 further comprising a step of providing an
2 indication of the on-hook/off-hook condition of the telephony appliance to the telephone
3 switching system via the signal path in response to the telephony appliance changing from an on-
4 hook condition to an off-hook condition.

1 16. (Original) The method according to claim 14 further comprising a step of providing an
2 indication of the on-hook/off-hook condition of the telephony appliance to the telephone
3 switching system via the signal path in response to the telephony appliance changing from an off-
4 hook condition to an on-hook condition.

1 17. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing a telephony appliance to a telephone
2 switching system, the method comprising steps of:
3 a. determining whether the telephone switching system communicates voice signals
4 as digital samples or as analog signals;
5 b. determining whether the telephony appliance communicates voice signals as
6 digital samples or as analog signals;

- 7 c. activating a first signal path when the telephone system communicates voice
8 signals as digital samples, the first signal path for communicating the voice
9 signals between the telephony appliance and the telephone switching system
10 wherein the first signal path includes a converter for converting the digital
11 samples into an analog signal;
- 12 d. activating a second signal path when the telephone system communicates voice
13 signals in analog format, the second signal path for communicating the voice
14 signals between the telephony appliance and the telephone switching system
15 wherein the second signal path includes analog signal processing circuits;
- 16 e. identifying a first communication protocol utilized by the telephone switching
17 system, wherein the identified first communication protocol is includes associated
18 conversion parameters which are used to dynamically program a first control
19 circuit within the first signal path or a second control circuit within the second
20 signal path such that the programmed first control circuit or the programmed
21 second control circuit translates the voice signals passed between the telephone
22 switching system and the telephony appliance; and
- 23 f. identifying a second communication protocol utilized by the telephony appliance,
24 wherein the first communication protocol and the second communication protocol
25 must first be identified before the telephony appliance and the telephone switching
26 system begin communicating with one another.

1 18. (Original) The method according to claim 17 further comprising a step of adapting an
2 active one of the first and second signal paths according to requirements of the telephone
3 switching system.

1 19. (Original) The method according to claim 17 further comprising a step of adapting the
2 second signal path according to requirements of the telephone switching system wherein the step

3 of adapting comprises a step of adjusting an amplification level according to a level of a dial tone
4 provided by the telephone switching system.

1 20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17 wherein the step of
2 determining whether the telephone switching system communicates voice signals includes a step
3 of measuring a first voltage supplied by the telephone switching system to a resistive load.

1 21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 20 wherein the step of
2 determining whether the telephone switching system communicates voice signals further
3 comprises a step of measuring a second voltage supplied by the telephone switching system
4 under unloaded conditions.

1 22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21 wherein the step of
2 determining whether the telephone switching system communicates voice signals further
3 comprises a step of comparing a ratio of the first and second voltages to a range of expected
4 ratios.

1 23. (Cancelled).

1 24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17 further comprising a step of
2 detecting an on-hook/off-hook condition of the telephony appliance.

1 25. (Original) The method according to claim 24 further comprising a step of providing an
2 indication of the on-hook/off-hook condition of the telephony appliance to the telephone
3 switching system in accordance with the identified protocol in response to the telephony
4 appliance changing from an on-hook condition to an off-hook condition.

1 26. (Original) The method according to claim 24 further comprising a step of providing an
2 indication of the on-hook/off-hook condition of the telephony appliance to the telephone
3 switching system in accordance with the identified protocol in response to the telephony
4 appliance changing from an off-hook condition to an on-hook condition.

1 27. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing a telephony appliance to a telephone
2 switching system, the method comprising steps of:

- 3 a. determining a first communication protocol of the telephone switching system;
- 4 b. determining a second communication protocol of the telephony appliance,
5 wherein the first communication protocol and the second communication protocol
6 must first be identified before the telephony appliance and the telephone switching
7 system begin communicating with one another;
- 8 c. dynamically programming a control circuit according to conversion parameters
9 associated with the determined first communication protocol; and
- 10 d. translating a communication according to the first communication protocol of the
11 telephone switching system using the programmed control circuit and further
12 according to the second communication protocol of the telephony appliance.